



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: DOC 5.5.1	Subject: PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY
Chapter 5: OFFENDER PROGRAMS	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Recreation and Activities	Revision Date:
Signature: /s/ by Director Day 11/3/97	Effective Date: Jan. 1, 1998

I. **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Department of Corrections to provide a broad range of programs, activities, and services to offenders confined in its facilities/programs, in order to hold offenders accountable and provide opportunity for self improvement.

II. **AUTHORITY:**

53-1-203, MCA. Powers and Duties of the Department of Corrections

III. **DEFINITIONS:**

None.

IV. **PROCEDURES:**

Consistent with offender security, supervision needs, and resources, offenders will be provided a broad range of programs and services. Programming will be available equitably to male and female offenders. The Offender Classification Procedures, as established in Department policy 4.2.1, will be utilized for referral to and information about these programs.

A. Participation

Offenders will have the option of refusing to participate in all programming except the following:

- C work assignments
- C intake and release physical examinations as required
- C reception, orientation, and pre-release programming
- C evaluation and classification meetings and tests
- C treatment programs in accordance with specific court orders
- C compulsory education requirements
- C release/treatment/incarceration plans established by the facility or program

C boot camp programs.

B. Programs

Available programs may include but need not be limited to the following:

- C vocational training/correctional industries
- C religious services
- C social services and counseling
- C psychological services
- C psychiatric treatment (except when involuntary treatment may be medically necessary and is permissible under applicable statute and case law)
- C library services
- C recreational activity
- C educational programs
- C correspondence and visiting.

C. Program Selection

Effective program selection involves the offender and staff in a joint effort. The appropriate staff will provide guidance to the offender in this process at the time of classification or reclassification. Staff members will devote particular attention to those offenders who score less than a sixth-grade reading level. These offenders will be encouraged to enroll in literacy, education and/or GED programs, and to remain in the program until at least a sixth-grade reading level is achieved.

After discussion with the offender, appropriate programs will be identified in accordance with Department policy 4.2.1 on offender classification. All offenders will have an opportunity for treatment, work, or skill development.

D. Reporting

Reporting for this policy will be accomplished in accordance with DOC 1.1.7, Audits and Program Review.

V. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the Warden, Superintendent or Program Manager.